



Charter Amendment No. 6

This is the sixth of nine proposed [College Station City Charter](#) amendments on the Nov. 6 ballot.

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What you will see on the ballot:

PROPOSITION NO. 6

FOR/AGAINST	Shall Article X (Franchises & Public Utilities), Section 104 (Procedure) of the College Station City Charter be amended to require two (2) readings of the franchise ordinance to be read for passage?
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NOTE: The ballot language incorrectly cites Article X as the subject of this proposition. It is actually Article XI.

What does it mean?

If you vote **AGAINST** this proposition, you are voting to keep this section of the charter as it is; if you vote **FOR** this proposition, you are voting to make these changes:

ARTICLE XI FRANCHISES & PUBLIC UTILITIES

Procedure Section 104

➤ **The existing charter says:**

The City of College Station shall have the power by ordinance to grant any franchise or right mentioned in the preceding sections hereof, which ordinance, however, shall not be passed finally until it shall have been read at three (3) separate regular meetings of the City Council. No ordinance granting a franchise shall pass any reading except by a vote of the majority of the City Council, and such ordinance shall not take effect until sixty (60) days after its adoption on its third and final reading; provided, however, that if at any time before such ordinance shall finally take effect a petition shall be presented to the City Council signed by not less than forty (40) percent of the bona fide qualified voters of the City, then the City Council shall submit the question of the granting of such franchise to a vote of the qualified voters of the City at the next succeeding general election to be held in the City, provided that notice thereof shall be published in at least ten (10) successive issues of the official newspaper of the

City of College Station prior to the holding of such election. Ballots shall be used briefly describing the franchise to be voted on and the terms thereof and containing the words, "For the granting of a franchise", and "Against the granting of a franchise". The vote shall be canvassed by the city council, and should it result that a majority of those voting thereon cast their votes "For the granting of a franchise", then by order entered in its minutes, the city council shall so declare and such franchise shall at once take effect. But should a majority of the votes be cast "Against granting a franchise", then the City Council by order entered in its minutes shall so declare and such franchise shall not take effect. In case a franchise is refused by the City Council, then the matter may be submitted to the qualified voters on petition, as hereinbefore provided, and a failure to finally pass on an application within six (6) months after the filing of such application shall be construed as a refusal. The City Council in passing an ordinance granting a franchise may provide therein that it shall not take effect until the same shall have been submitted to and approved by a majority of the qualified voters voting therein at a general election. All expenses of publication shall be borne by the applicant for the franchise, who shall make a deposit in advance to cover the estimated cost of publication, the amount of the deposit to be determined by the City Manager.

➤ ***The amended charter would say:***

The City of College Station shall have the power by ordinance to grant any franchise or right mentioned in the preceding sections hereof, which ordinance, however, shall not be passed finally until it shall have been read at two (2) separate regular meetings of the City Council. No ordinance granting a franchise shall pass any reading except by a vote of the majority of the City Council, and such ordinance shall not take effect until sixty (60) days after its adoption on its second and final reading; provided, however, that if at any time before such ordinance shall finally take effect a petition shall be presented to the City Council signed by not less than forty (40) percent of the bona fide qualified voters of the City, then the City Council shall submit the question of the granting of such franchise to a vote of the qualified voters of the City at the next succeeding general election to be held in the City, provided that notice thereof shall be published in at least ten (10) successive issues of the official newspaper of the City of College Station prior to the holding of such election. Ballots shall be used briefly describing the franchise to be voted on and the terms thereof and containing the words, "For the granting of a franchise", and "Against the granting of a franchise". The vote shall be canvassed by the city council, and should it result that a majority of those voting thereon cast their votes "For the granting of a franchise", then by order entered in its minutes, the city council shall so declare and such franchise shall at once take effect. But should a majority of the votes be cast "Against granting a franchise", then the City Council by order entered in its minutes shall so declare and such franchise shall not take effect. In case a franchise is refused by the City Council, then the matter may be submitted to the qualified voters on petition, as hereinbefore provided, and a failure to finally pass on an application within six (6) months after the filing of such application shall be construed as a refusal. The City Council in passing an ordinance granting a franchise may provide therein that it shall not take effect until the same shall have been submitted to and approved by a majority of the qualified voters voting therein at a general election. All expenses of publication shall be borne by the applicant for the franchise, who shall make a deposit in advance to cover the estimated cost of publication, the amount of the deposit to be determined by the City Manager.

Why is this charter amendment on the ballot?

After reviewing the city charter for more than a year, the 10-member Citizens Charter Review Advisory Commission in May recommended that eight charter amendments be placed on the ballot in a November special election. The commission's stated mission was to "review the city charter and make charter amendment recommendations, where appropriate, that will help protect the rights, powers and benefits of all College Station residents." Most of the recommendations were made to bring the charter in line with state law. The city council later added a ninth amendment about conflict of interest for council members.

[Citizens Charter Review Advisory Commission \(CRAC\)](#)

[Minutes of CRAC meetings](#)

[CRAC Final Report](#)